
Re: Joe Riggs

Joe Riggs <joeriggs@gmail.com>
To: James Brooks <jbrooks@adn.com>

Fri, Mar 22, 2019 at 5:10 PM

As you can imagine, I didn't think of this conversation until I saw this email. I called you immediately, but I'd like to submit a written account for the record.

Because I can't remember her name, I will refer to the AMHTA employee as "employee" and I will refer to her colleagues who provide early childhood intervention services as "colleagues". Quotes are generally paraphrased.

After the adjournment of our meeting on 1/31, employee approached me, introduced herself and said that she has some colleagues in town [REDACTED] that she'd like to introduce me to them and have them give me a briefing on what they do. Employee told me that they were planning to go out that night and asked if I could meet them. I said I wasn't going to stay out late due to an early morning flight, but if I saw them I would stop.

I had 3 cocktails in roughly 3 hours that evening with my last one at roughly 9:30. After that it was water. At around 1130 I was walking past the triangle bar on my way back to the hotel. I noticed some friends of mine and stopped in. I ordered a cranberry juice and engaged in conversation. At roughly midnight I ordered a second juice and notice employee and colleagues at the end of the bar drinking cocktails.

I approached employee and she seemed glad to see me. She introduced me as "Joe from Anchorage", the colleagues were pleasant and engaging. We spoke of how our houses fared in the quake, etc. Employee then told colleagues that I was a new trustee and that she asked me here to introduce them and have me learn about their program. After hearing this, both colleagues seemed very uncomfortable, pushed their drinks away, and wouldn't engage in meaningful conversation. I told them that I would enjoy hearing about their program, they replied with a pleasantry but wouldn't engage.

I could tell that they were uncomfortable and I tried to put them at ease by saying that I recognize that we are in a social situation and it's fine to have a casual conversation. Colleagues replied with a pleasantry, but still wouldn't engage in conversation. After I made this comment, it was apparent the employee was getting upset. I believe she just realized that she put her colleagues in an awkward situation by inviting a trustee(without their knowledge) to join them after they have been out socializing.

I asked them to tell me about early childhood intervention but the colleagues wouldn't engage. Employee then began to give a very vague description of the concept and I tried to put the colleagues at ease by telling them that my idea of early intervention was based off of my son's own disability and my desire to address problems quickly to maximize his outcomes. I went into a few details of therapy, etc. While I was making this statement, employee seemed very upset. She was leaning forward on the bar, holding her drink, with her head up and staring at the back wall.

It was obvious that the colleagues wanted the conversation to end and we made a couple short pleasantries before the colleagues said that it was time to go. I replied with a good natured "but I just got here". I asked if employee was leaving as well, she said yes and I replied with a good natured "at least I can't be blamed for keeping you out past bedtime". This entire conversation took 10 minutes.

We shook hands and they left. I finished my juice and went back to my hotel where I was up early to catch the 745 am flight to Anchorage. I went directly to work from the airport.

Joe Riggs

Sent from my iPad from somewhere in Alaska.

[Quoted text hidden]